

A new species of *Pritchardia*

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(WITH PLATE 21 AND ONE TEXT FIGURE)

The genus of palms, *Pritchardia*, is represented in the Hawaiian Islands by eleven species, including the new species treated in this paper. Originally, there were only two species known from these islands, *Pritchardia Gaudichaudii* Wendl. and *Pritchardia Martii* Wendl.

For several years I have carried on, on all the islands of this group, thorough botanical explorations; these have brought to light several new species of *Pritchardia*, most of which have been described by O. Beccari. Kauai has furnished two species; *P. minor* and *P. eriophora*; Maui, one species, *P. arecina*; Oahu, one species, *P. Rockiana*; and Hawaii, two species, *P. eriostachya* and *P. Beccariana*, the last (which is the handsomest of all) being here described for the first time. Beccari had described previously *P. Hillebrandii* from Molokai, *P. lanigera* from the Kohala Mountains, on Hawaii, and *P. remota* from Bird Island (Moku Manu), northwest of Kauai.

During a sojourn at the Volcano of Kilauea with my friend, M. L. Copeland, whom I take this opportunity to thank for his kind assistance, we discovered this handsome species in the humid forests of Glenwood. I was at once struck by the extraordinary size of this palm, its peculiar inflorescence and large globose fruits. We felled one tree and thus obtained complete specimens, some of which I forwarded to my friend, Dr. O. Beccari, with whom I had had long and interesting discussions of our Hawaiian palms while in Florence less than two years ago. He pronounced the palm a very distinct species but asked me, as he was occupied with other work, to describe it. With his consent I have taken the liberty of naming this beautiful species in his honor.

I believe that the Hawaiian Islands still harbor other species of *Pritchardia*, especially Lanai and the Island of Oahu; future

explorations will doubtless increase our knowledge of this beautiful genus of palms.

***Pritchardia Beccariana* Rock, sp. nov.**

Trunk 20–25 m. tall, about 40 cm. in diameter at the base, cylindrical, grayish, smooth, about 30 cm. in diameter breast-high, with more or less distant rings, showing the attachment of the leaves, the crown of leaves forming perfect globose heads of large dimensions; leaves large, suborbicular, measuring 1.5 m. or more from the ligule to the apex of the median segment, the ligule rotundate and prolonged in the middle to a distinct point; petioles 3 m. long in young fronds, 1.5–2 m. in mature fronds, stout, and covered on the under side with a fawn-colored squamaceous tomentum; segments about sixty, each segment 4–4.5 cm. wide, and subdivided again for 30 cm. into linear-acuminate lobes, with filaments 15–25 cm. long in the bifurcations, the lower surface of the leaves, especially near the petiole and costae covered with a squamaceous, flaky tomentum, upper surface glabrous; spadix 2–3 m. long including a main peduncle of 1 m., the spadix branching into three to five large open panicles at intervals of 3–4 dm.; the terete peduncle 2 cm. in diameter, enclosed by various, tubulose spathes 70–80 cm. long; panicles compressed, loose, the first two or three open and loosely branched, the last two nearest the leaf-axil short and densely branched, the branchlets short and spirally twisted; the former bearing abortive flowers only, the latter, or often only the last panicle producing fertile flowers and mature fruits; each panicle enclosed in several, reddish brown spathes, 30–40 cm., long covered with a squamaceous tomentum on the outside; flowers subsessile, on the more or less tortuous branchlets of the compound panicle, those bearing fertile flowers spirally twisted; calyx 5 mm. long, tubular-cylindrical, truncate at base and apex, with three very short teeth; petals (?); staminal cup much longer than the calyx, exerted 3 mm., and terminating into six, somewhat compressed, filaments, 2 mm. long; anthers acute at the apex, obtuse and slightly notched at the base, 3.5 mm. long, attached at about the middle to the filament; style columnar, triquetrous, with three punctiform stigmas at the apex; mature fruits large, subglobose; black, shining, 4 cm. in diameter, slightly flattened on one side, with a short conical apex; epicarp black, thin, fragile at the maturity of the fruit and exposing the thick, fibrous mesocarp, 5–6 mm. thick at the base, thinner at the apex; endocarp ligneous, 1 mm. thick; cavity of the endocarp circular, slightly flattened at the base, 2.75 cm. in diameter, not situated exactly in the middle of the fruit, but a little nearer to the apex;



PRITCHARDIA BECCARIANA ROCK

seed globose, base slightly broader, dark, brownish black, albumen horny, snow-white, hilum orbicular, embryo situated immediately above the hilum. [PLATE 21 and TEXT FIG. I.]

ISLAND OF HAWAII: in the rain forests in the neighborhood of Glenwood at an elevation of 3,200 feet; collected flowering and fruiting, December 23, 1914. The type specimen is preserved in the herbarium of the College of Hawaii.

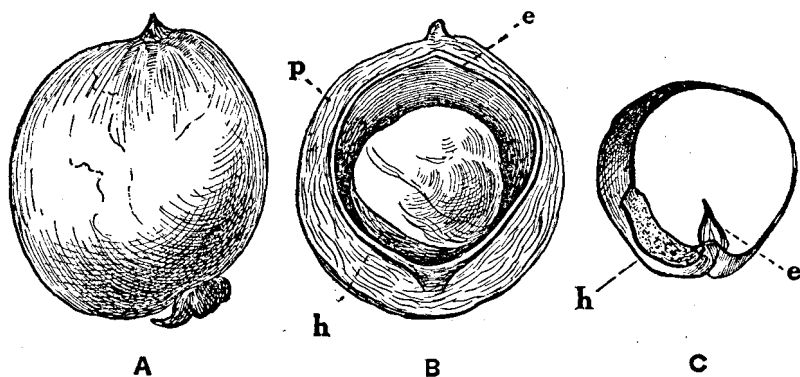


FIG. 1. PRITCHARDIA BECCARIANA Rock

A. Mature fruit, slightly reduced. B. Mature fruit cut in half, showing whole seed, slightly reduced: *p*, pericarp; *e*, endocarp; *h*, hilum. C. Seed cut in half, slightly reduced: *h*, hilum; *e*, embryo.

This exceedingly distinct species is one of the handsomest and tallest of the genus *Pritchardia*. It forms large groves throughout the forest in the vicinity of Glenwood, several hundred feet below the volcano of Kilauea, growing in company with *Metrosideros polymorpha*, *Cibotium Chamissoi*, *Cibotium Menziesii*, etc., towering as high as the tallest *Metrosideros* (Ohia Lehua) trees.

This species differs from all other species of *Pritchardia* mainly in the enormous inflorescence, which branches into five distinct spadices; in the large globose fruits; and in the large dimensions of the plant in general.

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Description of plate 21

Stand of *Pritchardia Beccariana* Rock, growing in the humid forest near Glenwood, Olaa, Hawaii, at an elevation of 3,200 feet. Ferns in the foreground, *Cibotium Chamissoi* and *C. Menziesii*; trees in the background, *Metrosideros polymorpha*.